

The St. Petersburg Chapter

Florida Society

Sons of the American Revolution

CHARTERED 1928

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April 2018

CHAPTER WEBSITES

www.stpetesar.org
www.jmcmullencar.org

2018 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars

May 19 - Law Enforcement Appreciation - St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11am

THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY

1775 – Battles of Lexington and Concord

1777 – Battle of Bound Brook (NJ)

1780 – Siege of Charleston



President's Message



Dear Compatriots:

Our May 19, 2018 SAR meeting will feature two of our chapter's focus areas. We will be recognizing the outstanding service by Sheriff's Deputy Amanda Grissinger, who is assigned to the Central Command. She will be accompanied by her chain of command. Her immediate supervisor is Sergeant Greg Horton and her second in command, Lieutenant Dodson. The Knight Essay contest winner and their instructor will also be recognized. .

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Rogers

VP / Chaplain's Message



It was my pleasure at the April meeting to address the chapter on the history of Freemasons in America. The basic local Masonic unit is the Lodge, and members are expected to believe in a Supreme Being, be law abiding, do good in the community, and respect government. George Washington was a Mason, as were Ben Franklin, Sam Adams, Patrick Henry, and all 13 of the original colonial governors.

Respectfully submitted,

David Munson Chestnut



Registrar's Report



We have three applications currently being reviewed at the national level, and another almost ready to go. If you know of anyone who has an interest in becoming a member, please let them know that we are always willing to assist them with the application process.

If you are preparing a supplemental application, or working with a relative or friend on their application, please be sure to use the most current version of the form, or the interactive online application.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Scott

MEETING MINUTES



Sons of the American Revolution

St Petersburg Chapter

April 21, 2018

Call to Order: The monthly meeting held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club was called to order at 11:40 AM by President Robert Rogers, and the invocation was given by Chaplain David Chestnut.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for the March meeting were approved.

Guests

Rev. Tom Tomlinson, and flag award recipient Oscar Salazar, representing Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge #291.

Officer Reports & News Items

President Rogers reported that next month's meeting will focus on our annual law enforcement award, which will be presented to Deputy Amanda Gressinger of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department. He plans to make this a joint meeting with several of the local DAR chapters. Our annual Knight Essay winner will also attend and receive an award from the chapter. Our newly approved chapter color guard will also be in attendance, in uniform.



Nominating Committee Chairman John Stewart announced that the slate of officers for next year is as follows:

President – Robert Rogers
Vice President – David Chestnut
Treasurer - to be determined
Secretary – Peter Ford
Registrar – Will Scott
Chaplain – David Chestnut
Historian – John Stewart

The chapter members will vote at the May meeting.

Presentations

Mike Black received three certificates recognizing his military service and his work with veterans.

David Chestnut gave an informative presentation of the history of Freemasonry and its involvement in the Revolutionary War. These fraternal organizations date back to the 14th century, originally established as craft guilds for stonemasons. The basic local unit is the Lodge, and members are expected to believe in a Supreme Being, be law abiding, do good in the community, and respect government. George Washington was a Mason, as were Ben Franklin, Sam Adams, Patrick Henry, and all 13 of the original colonial governors.

Oscar Salazar, Worshipful Master of Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge #291, received the annual flag award for proper display of the American flag by the Lodge.

Benediction & Recessional

David Chestnut gave the benediction, and President Rogers adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM.

Submitted by Peter Ford, Secretary

Compatriot Bryan's Journey into Pre-Revolutionary History

During April, Compatriot Hardy W. Bryan and his wife, Zenaida, visited the home of Hardy's great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandfather, John Adam Treutlen.

John Adam was born in a small town, Kurnbach, Germany, on January 16, 1734. He was the ninth of twelve children. When he was 10 years old, his family joined a mass exodus of people from Saltzburg, Austria. When he departed England for Savannah, Georgia his family was only his mother, Clara, and two brothers. They arrived in Rincon, also known as Ebenezer (just west of Savannah), as indentured servants. John Adam spoke excellent English as was identified as a boy of high intellect and many talents by the farmer where he worked off the servitude.



He entered local politics, fought in the Revolutionary War, helped write the Georgia state constitution, and was elected the first governor of the state. He was a Freemason and a Lutheran. Somewhere, somehow, the spelling of his name changed from Hans Adam Treutle to John Adam Treutlen. In fact, I have found many variations of his last name.

Little was known about his early years in Europe until Clemson Professor Helene Riley went on a mission to determine more about John Adam and to establish the truth among the many erroneous stories. Starting with searching for where he was born and his date of birth, she chased down many leads, finding no evidence of his birth until she went to Kurnbach. She, a German language professor, was able to dig into church and family Bibles and she located the family history. Her findings, along with photocopied pages of the records, were published in a book titled "John Adam Treutlen."

When Zenaida and Hardy were invited to Germany for a 24 day visit, their hosts were informed that a visit to Kurnbach was a must. Our host, Klaus Doesseler, contacted the city government to arrange our visit. Upon arrival, we were greeted by Mayor Armin Ebhart, the town visitor guide, Hans Wilhelm (he wore middle age clothes and stayed with us the entire visit), members of his staff and two newspaper reporters from Heidelberg and Karlsruhe. The day of our visit, a newspaper article reported that we were coming.

The Mayor was gifted with a bottle of bourbon from a distillery in Georgia named Thirteenth Colony. We were given two bottles of wine produced in Kurnbach along with some information on John Adam. Many pictures were taken in the office and many more when we walked to the front of John Adam's birth home. Then the town guide took us to a wonderful lunch and a tour of the town and vineyards that encircled the town.

We also visited the town's largest building, the Lutheran Church. It, too, is the original building, updated with lights, organ, etc. The baptism font where John Adam was baptized still is in use today. This church was on the border between two districts, whose rulers were at odds. Therefore, people from one district could enter the church on one side, and sit in pews only on that side, and the same for the other side. It was that way until 1905!

Then he led us back to the birth home, still standing and occupied by the Treutlen family! I am the first descendant of John Adam to have visited Kurnbach! Not surprising because his place of birth was not established until the publication of Riley's book. The house and the town as well were not destroyed by World War II, and all the buildings were original, dating many centuries ago. I met eight members of the family, my new found cousins. After greeting, hugs and talk, we were lead to a table laden with cakes, cookies, fruit, wine, coffee and beer. They were as thrilled to meet us as we were to meet them. It is difficult to describe the feelings, the excitement, and the warm welcome we received. We took many pictures and had a grand time. We also toured the remodeled living areas, and entered the bedroom of John Adam's birth.

Common in the days this house was built, there was a living area for the family, and also an area for the farm animals under the same roof. The barn area remained as it was built. There are stalls for horses and cows, a pig pen, rabbit hutch, hay loft and a collection of farming equipment. John Adam's father, Hans Michel, was a wine barrel maker, but today no one knows the location of his workshop.



Why did the family immigrate to the colonies? The new Archbishop of Salzburg, upon taking his office, issued an “Edict of Expulsion.” All Protestants were ordered to leave the area of his domain. Many moved to other locations in Europe, but many also moved to the American Colonies. The Treutlen’s joined the exodus and made their way to Rotterdam. There, they sailed to England and awaited passage. While there, John Adam’s father died as did one of his brothers. That explains why he, his mother and two brothers set sail as indentured servants, because the money had run out. They sailed in the fourth group aboard the ship Judith. At sea, with three weeks to go before landing, the ship’s captain, Walther Quarne, and the navigator, along with some passengers, died of typhus. There was no one who had any knowledge of navigation. Fortunately, on board was Pastor Hermann Heinrich Lemcke, who took command and with no more navigation skills than looking at stars, successfully guided the ship to Savannah!

As the day closed, we left Kurnbach, knowing that we have many, previously unknown relatives, entered in our family tree. We extended invitations to visit us in America. It was a day to fondly remember the rest of our lives. It was the highlight of our trip. We felt their love, and we hope they felt ours.



Compatriot Bryan with Kumbach Germany’s town guide and Mayor Ebhart



Portrait of Governor Treutlen that hangs in the Georgia State Capitol



John Adam Treutlen





Compatriot Alan Craig receives the American flag at the memorial service for his father, compatriot Frank Craig



Compatriots Chestnut, Craig, & Rogers at memorial service for compatriot Frank Craig





President Rogers presents compatriot Mike Black with certificates denoting his military service and work with veterans





Oscar Salazar of Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge #291, received the annual flag award for proper display of the American flag from Compatriot Chestnut.

